United Nations S/2013/145

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 March 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 9 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

On 6 March 2013, an armed terrorist group seized 21 personnel from the Filipino contingent attached to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the village of Jamlah, which is located near the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic cooperated fully with UNDOF command by unilaterally putting into effect a full ceasefire, in order to ensure the safety and security of members of the international forces and fulfil its responsibilities in that regard. It was, however, surprised to learn that the armed individuals had transferred the detained personnel to Jordan, instead of releasing them unconditionally and handing them over to the UNDOF leadership. This encourages armed terrorist groups to engage further in such conduct.

While the Syrian Government reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Agreement on the Disengagement of forces and allowing United Nations forces to carry out their mandate in the occupied Syrian Golan, it condemns the recent, repeated attacks against United Nations forces by armed terrorist groups. Those groups are exploiting the fact that the United Nations is disregarding the danger posed by their activities, which, thanks to the logistical support those groups receive from the Israeli occupation forces, are taking place in the United Nations forces' field of operations. This constitutes a blatant violation of the 1974 Agreement on the Disengagement of forces and places on Israel responsibility for the threat those groups pose to the safety and security of UNDOF troops and officials.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which has repeatedly warned of the consequences of the presence of terrorists in the area of separation, reaffirms that the United Nations must clearly and unequivocally condemn the attacks carried out by those armed terrorist groups against civilians in the area of separation and United Nations forces' troops. It also stresses that action must be taken to expel the terrorist groups from the area immediately and prevent them from infiltrating into it, and to hold responsible the States that are supporting their actions. The Government is of the view that ignoring the threat posed by the presence of those groups in the

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area of separation poses a multitude of dangers for the region, dangers that could threaten its stability and the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2013/146

Security Council

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11 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 7 March 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), which was established by Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) of 27 June 2011 and most recently extended by resolution 2075 (2012) of 16 November 2012.

I would like to inform you that it is my intention to appoint Major-General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia) as Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNISFA. Major-General Tesfamariam succeeds Lieutenant General Tadesse Werede Tesfay (Ethiopia), who completed his assignment on 24 January 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Lieutenant General Tesfay for his dedicated service and effective leadership of UNISFA.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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United Nations S/2013/147

Security Council

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11 March 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 11 March 2013 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 7 March 2013 (S/2013/146) concerning your intention to appoint Major-General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam (Ethiopia) as Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
President of the Security Council

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